REMARKS

Applicants affirm their provisional election to prosecute the species depicted in Example 1 on page 157 of the Specification. Claims 1-7, 11-16, 31-32, 35-41, 92, 99, 101 and 106-113 read on the elected species.

Claims 1-2, 5-7, 12-16, 31-32, 36-38, 40-41, 99 and 101 have been amended in accordance with the Office's suggestion solely for the purpose of prosecuting the amended claims in this application. These amendments better encompasses the full breadth of certain aspects of the present invention, notwithstanding Applicants' belief that the original claims would have been allowable.

In addition, the references listed on the IDS filed 12/3/01 and crossed out by the Examiner are being resubmitted herewith for consideration.

I. Improper Markush Group Objection

Reconsideration is requested of the objection of claims 1-7, 11-16, 31-32, 35-38, 41, 99, 101, and 106-113 based upon being drawn to an improper Markush group. These claims have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion and are drawn to proper Markush groups. Applicants, thus, respectfully request withdrawal of this objection.

II. 35 U.S.C. 112, Second Paragraph Rejection

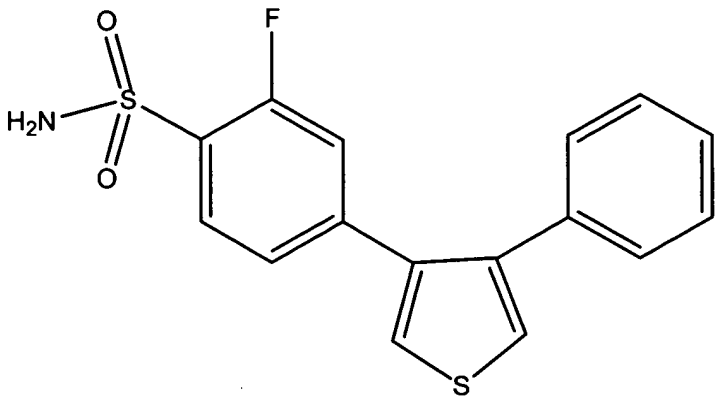
Reconsideration is requested of the rejection of claims 1, 31-32, 36, 38, 41, 99, and 101 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. The Office asserts that the use of the phrase "may be" renders these claims indefinite. Claims 1, 31-32, 36, 38, 41, 99, and 101, in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion, have been amended by replacing the phrase "may be" with "optionally." Applicants, thus, respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

III. 35 U.S.C. 102 Rejection

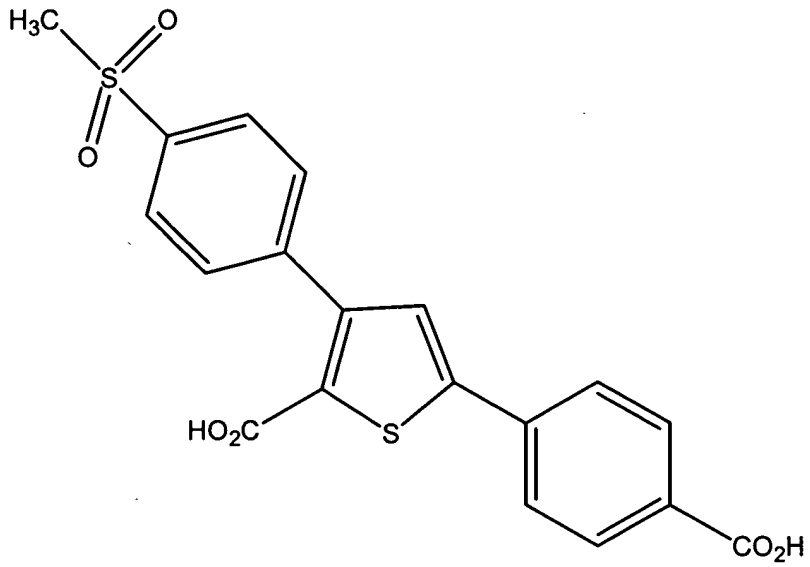
Reconsideration is requested of the rejection of claims 1-7, 11-14, 15-16, 31-32, 35- 41, 99, 101, and 106-113 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) in view of Ducharme et al. ("Ducharme").[1]

The compound of example 1 exemplifies compounds specified in claim 1. This compound is represented by the following structure:

[1]Ducharme et al., International Application No. PCT/GB95/02382.



The compound disclosed by Ducharme et al., and asserted by the Office to read on claims 1-7, 11-14, 15-16, 31-32, 35-38, 41, 99, 101, and 106-113, is represented by the following structure:[2]



The compound disclosed in Ducharme et al., contrary to the Office's assertion, does not anticipate the compound depicted in Example 1 and specified in claim 1. A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is described in a single

[2]In the Office action dated January 30, 2002, the Examiner states that "Ducharme discloses the instant compound, 2-Thiophenecarboxylic acid, 5-(4-carboxyphenyl)-3-[4-(methylsulfonyl) phenyl].

prior art reference.[3] In this case, however, the compounds disclosed in Ducharme et al. do not disclose each and every element of the compounds specified in claim 1. The compound of Example 1, as set forth above, has a thiophene substituted at position 3 with a **2-fluoro**-benzenesulfonamide group. A required element for each compound of claim 1 is phenyl substituted at position 2 with a fluoro group and at position 1 with either a sulfonamide or a methyl sulfonyl group. Contrastingly, nowhere do Ducharme et al. disclose a compound with phenyl substituted at position 2 with a fluoro group and at position 1 with either a sulfonamide or a methyl sulfonyl group, as required by claim 1. The compound recited in claim 1, therefore, contains at least one structural feature, the 2-fluoro group, **not present** in the compounds disclosed by Ducharme et al. Accordingly, Ducharme et al. does not anticipate claim 1. Moreover each of claims 2-7, 11-14, 15-16, 31-32, 35-38, 41, 99, 101, and 106-113 recite all of the limitations of claim 1, including the requirement for a 2-fluoro group. Claims 2-7, 11-14, 15-16, 31-32, 35-38, 41, 99, 101, and 106-113, thus, are also not anticipated by Ducharme et al.

In view of the foregoing argument, Applicants respectfully traverse this basis for rejection of claims 1-7, 11-14, 15-16, 31-32, 35-38, 41, 99, 101, and 106-113 and request its reconsideration and withdrawal.

IV. Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, Applicants request entry of the claim amendments, withdrawal of the claim rejections, and solicit an allowance of the claims. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney should any issues remain unresolved.

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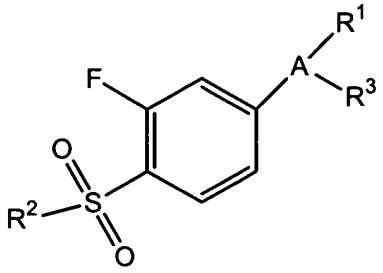
[3]Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of Calif., 2 USPQ 2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). See MPEP §2131.

Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Once amended) A compound of Formula I:



wherein:

A is a 5- or 6-member ring substituent selected from partially saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic and carbocyclic rings;

R^1 is cyclohexyl, pyridinyl, or phenyl, wherein said cyclohexyl, pyridinyl, and phenyl [may be may be] is optionally substituted with one, two or three radicals selected from the group consisting of C_{1-2}-alkyl, C_{1-2}-haloalkyl, cyano, carboxyl, C_{1-2}-alkoxycarbonyl, hydroxyl, C_{1-2}-hydroxyalkyl, C_{1-2}-haloalkoxy, amino, C_{1-2}-alkylamino, phenylamino, nitro, C_{1-2}-alkoxy-C_{1-2}-alkyl, C_{1-2}-alkylsulfinyl, halo, C_{1-2}-alkoxy and C_{1-3}-alkylthio;

R^2 is methyl or amino; and

R^3 represents one or more radicals selected from the group consisting of hydrido, halo, C_{1-2}-alkyl, C_{2-3}-alkenyl, C_{2-3}-alkynyl, oxo, cyano, carboxyl, cyano-C_{1-3}-alkyl, heterocyclyloxy, C_{1-3}-alkoxy, C_{1-3}alkylthio, alkylcarbonyl, cycloalkyl, phenyl, C_{1-3}-haloalkyl, heterocyclyl, cycloalkenyl, phenyl-C_{1-3}-alkyl, heterocyclyl-C_{1-3}-alkyl, C_{1-3}-alkylthio-C_{1-3}-alkyl, C_{1-3}-hydroxyalkyl, C_{1-3}-alkoxycarbonyl, phenylcarbonyl, phenyl-C_{1-3}-alkylcarbonyl, phenyl-C_{2-3}-alkenyl, C_{1-3}-alkoxy-C_{1-3}-alkyl, phenylthio-C_{1-3}-alkyl, phenyloxyalkyl, alkoxyphenylalkoxyalkyl, alkoxycarbonylalkyl, aminocarbonyl, aminocarbonyl-C_{1-3}-alkyl, C_{1-3}-alkylaminocarbonyl, N-phenylaminocarbonyl, N-(C_{1-3}-alkyl)-N-phenylaminocarbonyl, C_{1-3}-alkylaminocarbonyl-C_{1-3}-alkyl, carboxy-C_{1-3}-alkyl, C_{1-3}-alkylamino, N-arylamino, N-aralkylamino, N-(C_{1-3}-alkyl)-N-aralkylamino, N-(C_{1-3}-alkyl)-N-arylamino, amino-C_{1-3}-alkyl, C_{1-3}-alkylaminoalkyl, N-phenylamino-C_{1-3}-alkyl, N-phenyl-C_{1-3}-alkylaminoalkyl, N-(C_{1-3}-alkyl)-N-(phenyl-C_{1-3}-alkyl)amino-C_{1-3}-alkyl, N-(C_{1-3}-alkyl)-N-phenylamino-C_{1-3}-alkyl,

phenyloxy, phenylalkoxy, phenylthio, phenyl-C_{1-3}-alkylthio, C_{1-3}-alkylsulfinyl, C_{1-3}-alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, C_{1-3}-alkylaminosulfonyl, N-phenylaminosulfonyl, phenylsulfonyl, and N-(C_{1-3}-alkyl)-N-phenylaminosulfonyl;

or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt, tautomer or prodrug thereof;

provided that (a) A is not pyrrolyl, and (b) A is not oxazolyl other than oxazolonyl;

provided that when R^1 is 4-bromophenyl: (a) A is not pyrazolyl when R^2 is methyl and R^3 is hydrogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl or ethoxycarbonyl; (b) A is not imidazolyl when R^3 is trifluoromethyl; (c) A is not isoxazolyl when R^3 is methyl; and (d) A is not 2-furanonyl when R^3 is hydrogen; and

provided that when R^1 is 3-methyl-4-bromophenyl, R^2 is methyl and R^3 is trifluoromethyl, A is not imidazolyl.

Claim 2 has been amended as follows:

2. (Once amended) Compound of Claim 1 wherein:

A is a 5- or 6-member ring substituent selected from partially saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic and carbocyclic rings;

R^1 is cyclohexyl, pyridinyl, or phenyl, wherein said cyclohexyl, pyridinyl, and phenyl [may be] is optionally substituted with one, two or three radicals selected from the group consisting of C_{1-2}-alkyl, C_{1-2}-haloalkyl, cyano, carboxyl, C_{1-2}-alkoxycarbonyl, hydroxyl, C_{1-2}-hydroxyalkyl, C_{1-2}-haloalkoxy, amino, C_{1-2}-alkylamino, phenylamino, nitro, C_{1-2}-alkoxy-C_{1-2}-alkyl, C_{1-2}-alkylsulfinyl, halo, C_{1-2}-alkoxy and C_{1-3}-alkylthio;

R^2 is methyl or amino; and

R^3 represents one or more radicals selected from the group consisting of hydrido, halo, C_{1-2}-alkyl, C_{2-3}-alkenyl, C_{2-3}-alkynyl, oxo, cyano, carboxyl, cyano-C_{1-3}-alkyl, (5- or 6- member ring heterocyclyl)oxy, C_{1-3}-alkoxy, C_{1-3}-alkylthio, C_{1-3}-alkylcarbonyl, C_{3-6}-cycloalkyl, phenyl, C_{1-3}-haloalkyl, 5- or 6- member ring heterocyclyl, C_{3-6}-cycloalkenyl, phenyl-C_{1-3}-alkyl, (5- or 6-member ring heterocyclyl)-C_{1-3}-alkyl, C_{1-3}-alkylthio-C_{1-3}-alkyl, C_{1-3}-hydroxyalkyl, C_{1-3}-alkoxycarbonyl, phenylcarbonyl, phenyl-C_{1-3}-alkylcarbonyl, phenyl-C_{2-3}-alkenyl, C_{1-3}-alkoxy-C_{1-3}-alkyl, phenylthio-C_{1-3}-alkyl, phenyloxy-C_{1-3}-alkyl, C_{1-3}-alkoxyphenyl-C_{1-3}-alkoxy-C_{1-3}-alkyl, C_{1-3}-alkoxycarbonyl-C_{1-3}-alkyl, aminocarbonyl, aminocarbonyl-C_{1-3}-alkyl, C_{1-3}-alkylaminocarbonyl, N-phenylaminocarbonyl, N-(C_{1-3}-alkyl)-N-phenylaminocarbonyl, C_{1-3}-alkylaminocarbonyl-C_{1-3}-alkyl, carboxy-C_{1-3}-alkyl, C_{1-3}-alkylamino, N-phenylamino, N-(phenyl-C_{1-3}-alkyl)amino, N-(C_{1-3}-alkyl)-N-(phenyl-C_{1-3}-alkyl)amino, N-(C_{1-3}-alkyl)-N-phenylamino, amino-C_{1-3}-alkyl, C_{1-3}-alkylamino-C_{1-3}-alkyl, N-phenylamino-C_{1-3}-alkyl, N-phenyl-C_{1-3}-alkylamino-C_{1-3}-alkyl, N-(C_{1-3}-alkyl)-N-phenyl-C_{1-3}-alkylamino-C_{1-3}-alkyl, N-(C_{1-3}-alkyl)-N-phenylamino-C_{1-3}-alkyl, phenyloxy, phenyl-C_{1-3}-alkoxy, phenylthio, phenyl-C_{1-3}-alkylthio, C_{1-3}-alkylsulfinyl, C_{1-3}-alkylsulfonyl,

aminosulfonyl, C_{1-3}-alkylaminosulfonyl, N-phenylaminosulfonyl, phenylsulfonyl, and N-(C_{1-3}-alkyl)-N-phenylaminosulfonyl;

or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt, tautomer or prodrug thereof.

5. (Once amended) Compound of Claim 2 wherein A is a radical selected from the group consisting of thienyl, furyl, furanone, thiazolyl, oxothiazolyl, thioxothiazolyl, imidazolyl, benzofuryl, indenyl, benzothienyl, isoxazolyl, oxooxazolyl, pyrazolyl, cyclopentenyl, cyclopentadienyl, benzindazolyl, benzopyranopyrazolyl, phenyl, and pyridyl.

Claim 6 has been amended as follows:

6. (Once amended) Compound of Claim 2 wherein A is a radical selected from the group consisting of thienyl, furyl, furanone, thiazolyl, oxothiazolyl, thioxothiazolyl, imidazolyl, benzofuryl, indenyl, benzothienyl, isoxazolyl, pyrazolyl, cyclopentenyl, cyclopentadienyl, benzindazolyl, benzopyranopyrazolyl, phenyl, and pyridyl.

Claim 7 has been amended as follows:

7. (Once amended) Compound of Claim 2 wherein A is a radical selected from the group consisting of thienyl, furanone, isoxazolyl, pyrazolyl, cyclopentenyl and pyridinyl.

Claim 12 has been amended as follows:

12. (Once amended) Compound of Claim 6 wherein R^1 is cyclohexyl, pyridinyl, or phenyl, wherein said cyclohexyl, pyridinyl, and phenyl [may be] is optionally substituted with one, two or three radicals selected from the group consisting of methyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, cyano, carboxyl, methoxycarbonyl, hydroxyl, hydroxymethyl, trifluoromethoxy, amino, methylamino, phenylamino, nitro, methoxymethyl, methylsulfinyl, fluoro, chloro, bromo, methoxy and methylthio.

Claim 13 has been amended as follows:

13. (Once amended) Compound of Claim 6 wherein R^3 is a radical selected from the group consisting of hydrido, fluoro, chloro, bromo, methyl, oxo, cyano, carboxyl, cyanomethyl, methoxy, methylthio, methylcarbonyl, phenyl, trifluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, phenylmethyl, methylthiomethyl, hydroxymethyl, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, phenylcarbonyl, phenylmethylcarbonyl, methoxymethyl, phenylthiomethyl, phenyloxymethyl, methoxyphenylmethoxymethyl, methoxycarbonylmethyl, aminocarbonyl, aminocarbonylmethyl, methylaminocarbonyl, N-phenylaminocarbonyl, N-methyl-N-phenylaminocarbonyl, methylaminocarbonylmethyl, carboxymethyl, methylamino, N-phenylamino, N-(phenylmethyl)amino, N-methyl-N-(phenylmethyl)amino, N-methyl-N-phenylamino, aminomethyl, methylaminomethyl, N-phenylaminomethyl, N-phenylmethylaminomethyl, N-methyl-N-phenylmethylaminomethyl, N-methyl-N-phenylaminomethyl, phenyloxy, phenylmethoxy, phenylthio, phenylmethylthio, methylsulfinyl, methylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, methylaminosulfonyl, N-phenylaminosulfonyl, phenylsulfonyl, and N-methyl-N-phenylaminosulfonyl.

Claim 14 has been amended as follows:

14. (Once amended) Compound of Claim 6 wherein

R^1 is cyclohexyl or phenyl, wherein said cyclohexyl and phenyl [may be] is optionally substituted with one, two or three radicals selected from the group consisting of methyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, cyano, carboxyl, methoxycarbonyl, hydroxyl, hydroxymethyl, trifluoromethoxy, amino, methylamino, phenylamino, nitro, methoxymethyl, methylsulfinyl, fluoro, chloro, bromo, methoxy and methylthio; and

R^3 is a radical selected from the group consisting of hydrido, fluoro, chloro, bromo, methyl, oxo, cyano, carboxyl, cyanomethyl, methoxy, methylthio, methylcarbonyl, phenyl, trifluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, phenylmethyl, methylthiomethyl, hydroxymethyl, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, phenylcarbonyl, phenylmethylcarbonyl, methoxymethyl, phenylthiomethyl, phenyloxymethyl, methoxyphenylmethoxymethyl, methoxycarbonylmethyl, aminocarbonyl, aminocarbonylmethyl, methylaminocarbonyl, N-phenylaminocarbonyl, N-methyl-N-phenylaminocarbonyl, methylaminocarbonylmethyl, carboxymethyl, methylamino, N-phenylamino, N-(phenylmethyl)amino, N-methyl-N-(phenylmethyl)amino, N-methyl-N-phenylamino, aminomethyl, methylaminomethyl, N-phenylaminomethyl, N-phenylmethylaminomethyl, N-methyl-N-phenylmethylaminomethyl, N-methyl-N-phenylaminomethyl, phenyloxy, phenylmethoxy, phenylthio, phenylmethylthio, methylsulfinyl,

methylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, methylaminosulfonyl, N-phenylaminosulfonyl, phenylsulfonyl, and N-methyl-N-phenylaminosulfonyl.

Claim 15 has been amended as follows:

15. (Once amended) Compound of Claim 6 wherein

R^1 is cyclohexyl or phenyl, wherein said cyclohexyl and phenyl [may be] is optionally substituted with one, two or three radicals selected from the group consisting of halo, cyano, C_{1-2}-alkyl, C_{1-2}-haloalkyl, C_{1-2}-alkoxy, and C_{1-2}-haloalkoxy; and

R^3 is a radical selected from the group consisting of hydrido, C_{1-2}-alkyl, C_{1-3}-alkoxy, C_{1-3}-alkylcarbonyl, C_{1-3}-haloalkyl, C_{1-3}-hydroxyalkyl, and C_{1-3}-alkoxycarbonyl.

Claim 16 has been amended as follows:

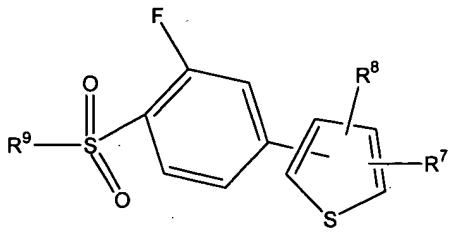
16. (Once amended) Compound of Claim 15 wherein

R^1 is cyclohexyl or phenyl, wherein said cyclohexyl and phenyl [may be] is optionally substituted with one, two or three radicals selected from the group consisting of methyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, cyano, fluoro, chloro, bromo, and methoxy; and

R^3 is a radical selected from the group consisting of hydrido, methyl, methoxy, methylcarbonyl, trifluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, hydroxymethyl, and methoxycarbonyl.

Claim 31 has been amended as follows:

31. (Once amended) A compound of Claim 1 having Formula III:



wherein:

R^7 is cyclohexyl, pyridinyl, or phenyl, wherein said cyclohexyl, pyridinyl, and phenyl [may be] is optionally substituted with one, two or three radicals selected from the group consisting of C_{1-2}-alkyl, C_{1-2}-haloalkyl, cyano, carboxyl, C_{1-2}-alkoxycarbonyl, hydroxyl, C_{1-2}-

hydroxyalkyl, C_{1-2}-haloalkoxy, amino, C_{1-2}-alkylamino, phenylamino, nitro, C_{1-2}-alkoxy-C_{1-2}-alkyl, C_{1-2}-alkylsulfinyl, halo, C_{1-2}-alkoxy and C_{1-3}-alkylthio;

R^8 is a radical selected from the group consisting of hydrido, halo, C_{1-2}-alkyl, C_{2-3}-alkenyl, C_{2-3}-alkynyl, oxo, cyano, carboxyl, cyano-C_{1-3}-alkyl, heterocyclyloxy, C_{1-3}-alkoxy, C_{1-3}-alkylthio, alkylcarbonyl, cycloalkyl, phenyl, C_{1-3}-haloalkyl, heterocyclyl, cycloalkenyl, phenyl-C_{1-3}-alkyl, heterocyclyl-C_{1-3}-alkyl, C_{1-3}-alkylthio-C_{1-3}-alkyl, C_{1-3}-hydroxyalkyl, C_{1-3}-alkoxycarbonyl, phenylcarbonyl, phenyl-C_{1-3}-alkylcarbonyl, phenyl-C_{2-3}-alkenyl, C_{1-3}-alkoxy-C_{1-3}-alkyl, phenylthio-C_{1-3}-alkyl, phenyloxyalkyl, alkoxyphenylalkoxyalkyl, alkoxycarbonylalkyl, aminocarbonyl, aminocarbonyl-C_{1-3}-alkyl, C_{1-3}-alkylaminocarbonyl, N-phenylaminocarbonyl, N-(C_{1-3}-alkyl)-N-phenylaminocarbonyl, C_{1-3}-alkylaminocarbonyl-C_{1-3}-alkyl, carboxy-C_{1-3}-alkyl, C_{1-3}-alkylamino, N-arylamino, N-aralkylamino, N-(C_{1-3}-alkyl)-N-aralkylamino, N-(C_{1-3}-alkyl)-N-arylamino, amino-C_{1-3}-alkyl, C_{1-3}-alkylaminoalkyl, N-phenylamino-C_{1-3}-alkyl, N-phenyl-C_{1-3}-alkylaminoalkyl, N-(C_{1-3}-alkyl)-N-(phenyl-C_{1-3}-alkyl)amino-C_{1-3}-alkyl, N-(C_{1-3}-alkyl)-N-phenylamino-C_{1-3}-alkyl, phenyloxy, phenylalkoxy, phenylthio, phenyl-C_{1-3}-alkylthio, C_{1-3}-alkylsulfinyl, C_{1-3}-alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, C_{1-3}-alkylaminosulfonyl, N-phenylaminosulfonyl, phenylsulfonyl, and N-(C_{1-3}-alkyl)-N-phenylaminosulfonyl; and

R^9 is methyl or amino; or

a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt, tautomer or prodrug thereof.

Claim 32 has been amended as follows:

32. (Once amended) 32. Compound of Claim 31 wherein:

R^7 is cyclohexyl, pyridinyl, or phenyl, wherein said cyclohexyl, pyridinyl, and phenyl [may be] is optionally substituted with one, two or three radicals selected from the group consisting of C_{1-2}-alkyl, C_{1-2}-haloalkyl, cyano, carboxyl, C_{1-2}-alkoxycarbonyl, hydroxyl, C_{1-2}-hydroxyalkyl, C_{1-2}-haloalkoxy, amino, C_{1-2}-alkylamino, phenylamino, nitro, C_{1-2}-alkoxy-C_{1-2}-alkyl, C_{1-2}-alkylsulfinyl, halo, C_{1-2}-alkoxy and C_{1-3}-alkylthio;

R^8 is a radical selected from the group consisting of hydrido, halo, C_{1-2}-alkyl, C_{2-3}-alkenyl, C_{2-3}-alkynyl, oxo, cyano, carboxyl, cyano-C_{1-3}-alkyl, (5- or 6- member ring heterocyclyl)oxy, C_{1-3}-alkoxy, C_{1-3}-alkylthio, C_{1-3}-alkylcarbonyl, C_{3-6}-cycloalkyl, phenyl, C_{1-3}-haloalkyl, 5- or 6- member ring heterocyclyl, C_{3-6}-cycloalkenyl, phenyl-C_{1-3}-alkyl, (5- or 6- member ring heterocyclyl)-C_{1-3}-alkyl, C_{1-3}-alkylthio-C_{1-3}-alkyl, C_{1-3}-hydroxyalkyl, C_{1-3}-alkoxycarbonyl, phenylcarbonyl, phenyl-C_{1-3}-alkylcarbonyl, phenyl-C_{2-3}-alkenyl, C_{1-3}-alkoxy-C_{1-3}-alkyl, phenylthio-C_{1-3}-alkyl, phenyloxy-C_{1-3}-alkyl, C_{1-3}-alkoxyphenyl-C_{1-3}-alkoxy-C_{1-3}-alkyl, C_{1-3}-alkoxycarbonyl-C_{1-3}-alkyl, aminocarbonyl, aminocarbonyl-C_{1-3}-alkyl, C_{1-3}-alkylaminocarbonyl, N-phenylaminocarbonyl, N-(C_{1-3}-alkyl)-N-phenylaminocarbonyl, C_{1-3}-alkylaminocarbonyl-C_{1-3}-alkyl, carboxy-C_{1-3}-alkyl, C_{1-3}-alkylamino, N-phenylamino, N-(phenyl-C_{1-3}-alkyl)amino, N-(C_{1-3}-alkyl)-N-(phenyl-C_{1-3}-

alkyl)amino, N-(C_{1-3}-alkyl)-N-phenylamino, amino-C_{1-3}-alkyl, C_{1-3}-alkylamino-C_{1-3}-alkyl, N-phenylamino-C_{1-3}-alkyl, N-phenyl-C_{1-3}-alkylamino-C_{1-3}-alkyl, N-(C_{1-3}-alkyl)-N-phenyl-C_{1-3}-alkylamino-C_{1-3}-alkyl, N-(C_{1-3}-alkyl)-N-phenylamino-C_{1-3}-alkyl, phenyloxy, phenyl-C_{1-3}-alkoxy, phenylthio, phenyl-C_{1-3}-alkylthio, C_{1-3}-alkylsulfinyl, C_{1-3}-alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, C_{1-3}-alkylaminosulfonyl, N-phenylaminosulfonyl, phenylsulfonyl, and N-(C_{1-3}-alkyl)-N-phenylaminosulfonyl; and

R^9 is methyl or amino; or

a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt, tautomer or prodrug thereof.

Claim 36 has been amended as follows:

36. (Once amended) Compound of Claim 32 wherein R^7 is cyclohexyl, pyridinyl, or phenyl, wherein said cyclohexyl, pyridinyl, and phenyl [may be] is optionally substituted with one, two or three radicals selected from the group consisting of methyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, cyano, carboxyl, methoxycarbonyl, hydroxyl, hydroxymethyl, trifluoromethoxy, amino, methylamino, phenylamino, nitro, methoxymethyl, methylsulfinyl, fluoro, chloro, bromo, methoxy and methylthio.

Claim 37 has been amended as follows:

37. (Once amended) Compound of Claim 32 wherein R^8 is a radical selected from the group consisting of hydrido, fluoro, chloro, bromo, methyl, oxo, cyano, carboxyl, cyanomethyl, methoxy, methylthio, methylcarbonyl, phenyl, trifluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, phenylmethyl, methylthiomethyl, hydroxymethyl, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, phenylcarbonyl, phenylmethylcarbonyl, methoxymethyl, phenylthiomethyl, phenyloxymethyl, methoxyphenylmethoxymethyl, methoxycarbonylmethyl, aminocarbonyl, aminocarbonylmethyl, methylaminocarbonyl, N-phenylaminocarbonyl, N-methyl-N-phenylaminocarbonyl, methylaminocarbonylmethyl, carboxymethyl, methylamino, N-phenylamino, N-(phenylmethyl)amino, N-methyl-N-(phenylmethyl)amino, N-methyl-N-phenylamino, aminomethyl, methylaminomethyl, N-phenylaminomethyl, N-phenylmethylaminomethyl, N-methyl-N-phenylmethylaminomethyl, N-methyl-N-phenylaminomethyl, phenyloxy, phenylmethoxy, phenylthio, phenylmethylthio, methylsulfinyl, methylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, methylaminosulfonyl, N-phenylaminosulfonyl, phenylsulfonyl, and N-methyl-N-phenylaminosulfonyl.

Claim 38 has been amended as follows:

38. (Once amended) Compound of Claim 32 wherein:

R^7 is cyclohexyl or phenyl, wherein said cyclohexyl and phenyl [may be] is optionally substituted with one, two or three radicals selected from the group consisting of methyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, cyano, carboxyl, methoxycarbonyl, hydroxyl, hydroxymethyl, trifluoromethoxy, amino, methylamino, phenylamino, nitro, methoxymethyl, methylsulfinyl, fluoro, chloro, bromo, methoxy and methylthio; and

R^8 is a radical selected from the group consisting of hydrido, fluoro, chloro, bromo, methyl, oxo, cyano, carboxyl, cyanomethyl, methoxy, methylthio, methylcarbonyl, phenyl, trifluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, phenylmethyl, methylthiomethyl, hydroxymethyl, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, phenylcarbonyl, phenylmethylcarbonyl, methoxymethyl, phenylthiomethyl, phenyloxymethyl, methoxyphenylmethoxymethyl, methoxycarbonylmethyl, aminocarbonyl, aminocarbonylmethyl, methylaminocarbonyl, N-phenylaminocarbonyl, N-methyl-N-phenylaminocarbonyl, methylaminocarbonylmethyl, carboxymethyl, methylamino, N-phenylamino, N-(phenylmethyl)amino, N-methyl-N-(phenylmethyl)amino, N-methyl-N-phenylamino, aminomethyl, methylaminomethyl, N-phenylaminomethyl, N-phenylmethylaminomethyl, N-methyl-N-phenylmethylaminomethyl, N-methyl-N-phenylaminomethyl, phenyloxy, phenylmethoxy, phenylthio, phenylmethylthio, methylsulfinyl, methylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, methylaminosulfonyl, N-phenylaminosulfonyl, phenylsulfonyl, and N-methyl-N-phenylaminosulfonyl.

Claim 40 has been amended as follows:

40. (Once amended) Compound of Claim 32 wherein:

R^7 is cyclohexyl or phenyl, wherein said cyclohexyl and phenyl [may be] is optionally substituted with one, two or three radicals selected from the group consisting of halo, cyano, C_{1-2}-alkyl, C_{1-2}-haloalkyl, C_{1-2}-alkoxy, and C_{1-2}-haloalkoxy; and

R^8 is a radical selected from the group consisting of hydrido, halogen, C_{1-2}-alkyl, C_{1-3}-alkoxy, C_{1-3}-alkylcarbonyl, C_{1-3}-haloalkyl, C_{1-3}-hydroxyalkyl, and C_{1-3}-alkoxycarbonyl.

Claim 41 has been amended as follows:

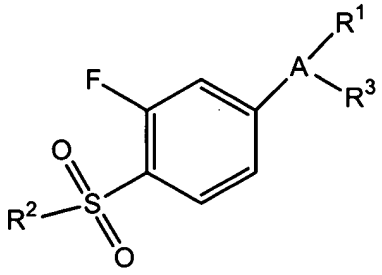
41. (Once amended) Compound of Claim 32 wherein

R^7 is cyclohexyl or phenyl, wherein said cyclohexyl and phenyl [may be] is optionally substituted with one, two or three radicals selected from the group consisting of methyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, cyano, fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo and methoxy; and

R^8 is a radical selected from the group consisting of hydrido, chloro, fluoro, bromo, cyano, methyl, methoxy, methylcarbonyl, trifluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, hydroxymethyl, and methoxycarbonyl.

Claim 99 has been amended as follows:

99. (Once amended) A method of treating inflammation, said method comprising administering to [the] a subject having or susceptible to such inflammation or inflammation-associated disorder, a therapeutically-effective amount of a compound of Formula I



wherein:

A is a 5- or 6-member ring substituent selected from partially saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic and carbocyclic rings;

R^1 is cyclohexyl, pyridinyl, or phenyl, wherein said cyclohexyl, pyridinyl, and phenyl [may be may be] is optionally substituted with one, two or three radicals selected from the group consisting of C_{1-2}-alkyl, C_{1-2}-haloalkyl, cyano, carboxyl, C_{1-2}-alkoxycarbonyl, hydroxyl, C_{1-2}-hydroxyalkyl, C_{1-2}-haloalkoxy, amino, C_{1-2}-alkylamino, phenylamino, nitro, C_{1-2}-alkoxy-C_{1-2}-alkyl, C_{1-2}-alkylsulfinyl, halo, C_{1-2}-alkoxy and C_{1-3}-alkylthio;

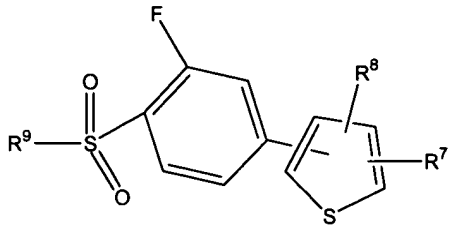
R^2 is methyl or amino; and

R^3 represents one or more radicals selected from the group consisting of hydrido, halo, C_{1-2}-alkyl, C_{2-3}-alkenyl, C_{2-3}-alkynyl, oxo, cyano, carboxyl, cyano-C_{1-3}-alkyl, heterocyclyloxy, C_{1-3}-alkoxy, C_{1-3}alkylthio, alkylcarbonyl, cycloalkyl, phenyl, C_{1-3}-haloalkyl, heterocyclyl, cycloalkenyl, phenyl-C_{1-3}-alkyl, heterocyclyl-C_{1-3}-alkyl, C_{1-3}-alkylthio-C_{1-3}-alkyl, C_{1-3}-hydroxyalkyl, C_{1-3}-alkoxycarbonyl, phenylcarbonyl, phenyl-C_{1-3}-alkylcarbonyl, phenyl-C_{2-3}-alkenyl, C_{1-3}-alkoxy-C_{1-3}-alkyl, phenylthio-C_{1-3}-alkyl, phenyloxyalkyl, alkoxyphenylalkoxyalkyl, alkoxycarbonylalkyl, aminocarbonyl, aminocarbonyl-C_{1-3}-alkyl, C_{1-3}-alkylaminocarbonyl, N-phenylaminocarbonyl, N-(C_{1-3}-alkyl)-N-phenylaminocarbonyl, C_{1-3}-alkylaminocarbonyl-C_{1-3}-alkyl, carboxy-C_{1-3}-alkyl, C_{1-3}-alkylamino, N-arylamino, N-aralkylamino, N-(C_{1-3}-alkyl)-N-aralkylamino, N-(C_{1-3}-alkyl)-N-arylamino, amino-C_{1-3}-alkyl, C_{1-3}-alkylaminoalkyl, N-phenylamino-C_{1-3}-alkyl, N-phenyl-C_{1-3}-alkylaminoalkyl, N-(C_{1-3}-alkyl)-N-(phenyl-C_{1-3}-alkyl)amino-C_{1-3}-alkyl, N-(C_{1-3}-alkyl)-N-phenylamino-C_{1-3}-alkyl, phenyloxy, phenylalkoxy, phenylthio, phenyl-C_{1-3}-alkylthio, C_{1-3}-alkylsulfinyl, C_{1-3}-alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, C_{1-3}-alkylaminosulfonyl, N-phenylaminosulfonyl, phenylsulfonyl, and N-(C_{1-3}-alkyl)-N-phenylaminosulfonyl;

or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt, tautomer or prodrug thereof.

Claim 101 has been amended as follows:

101. (Once amended) The method of Claim 99 wherein the compound corresponds to Formula III:



wherein:

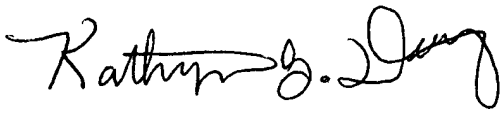
R^7 is cyclohexyl, pyridinyl, or phenyl, wherein said cyclohexyl, pyridinyl, and phenyl [may be] is optionally substituted with one, two or three radicals selected from the group consisting of C_{1-2}-alkyl, C_{1-2}-haloalkyl, cyano, carboxyl, C_{1-2}-alkoxycarbonyl, hydroxyl, C_{1-2}-hydroxyalkyl, C_{1-2}-haloalkoxy, amino, C_{1-2}-alkylamino, phenylamino, nitro, C_{1-2}-alkoxy-C_{1-2}-alkyl, C_{1-2}-alkylsulfinyl, halo, C_{1-2}-alkoxy and C_{1-3}-alkylthio;

R^8 is a radical selected from the group consisting of hydrido, halo, C_{1-2}-alkyl, C_{2-3}-alkenyl, C_{2-3}-alkynyl, oxo, cyano, carboxyl, cyano-C_{1-3}-alkyl, heterocyclyloxy, C_{1-3}-alkoxy, C_{1-3}-alkylthio, alkylcarbonyl, cycloalkyl, phenyl, C_{1-3}-haloalkyl, heterocyclyl, cycloalkenyl, phenyl-C_{1-3}-alkyl, heterocyclyl-C_{1-3}-alkyl, C_{1-3}-alkylthio-C_{1-3}-alkyl, C_{1-3}-hydroxyalkyl, C_{1-3}-alkoxycarbonyl, phenylcarbonyl, phenyl-C_{1-3}-alkylcarbonyl, phenyl-C_{2-3}-alkenyl, C_{1-3}-alkoxy-C_{1-3}-alkyl, phenylthio-C_{1-3}-alkyl, phenyloxyalkyl, alkoxyphenylalkoxyalkyl, alkoxycarbonylalkyl, aminocarbonyl, aminocarbonyl-C_{1-3}-alkyl, C_{1-3}-alkylaminocarbonyl, N-phenylaminocarbonyl, N-(C_{1-3}-alkyl)-N-phenylaminocarbonyl, C_{1-3}-alkylaminocarbonyl-C_{1-3}-alkyl, carboxy-C_{1-3}-alkyl, C_{1-3}-alkylamino, N-arylamino, N-aralkylamino, N-(C_{1-3}-alkyl)-N-aralkylamino, N-(C_{1-3}-alkyl)-N-arylamino, amino-C_{1-3}-alkyl, C_{1-3}-alkylaminoalkyl, N-phenylamino-C_{1-3}-alkyl, N-phenyl-C_{1-3}-alkylaminoalkyl, N-(C_{1-3}-alkyl)-N-(phenyl-C_{1-3}-alkyl)amino-C_{1-3}-alkyl, N-(C_{1-3}-alkyl)-N-phenylamino-C_{1-3}-alkyl, phenyloxy, phenylalkoxy, phenylthio, phenyl-C_{1-3}-alkylthio, C_{1-3}-alkylsulfinyl, C_{1-3}-alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, C_{1-3}-alkylaminosulfonyl, N-phenylaminosulfonyl, phenylsulfonyl, and N-(C_{1-3}-alkyl)-N-phenylaminosulfonyl; and

R^9 is methyl or amino; or

a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt, tautomer or prodrug thereof.

Respectfully submitted,



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